

California Coastal National Monument at Cabrillo National Monument's Whale Watch Weekend & Intertidal Life Festival.

As the last of the Pacific Gray Whales migrate south to Baja California before beginning their return trip north to their summer feeding grounds in waters off Alaska and the tide was low throughout the afternoon exposing the wide variety of intertidal life in the coastal tidepools, Cabrillo National Monument held their 26th annual Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival. The BLM's California Coastal National Monument (CCNM), along with about 20 other agencies and organizations, was there to help celebrate. Sponsored by the National Park Service at Cabrillo National Monument -- located on the tip of San Diego's Point Loma -- the weekend-long event held on February 9 and 10, 2013, attracted the majority of the more than 5,000 visitors to the monument.

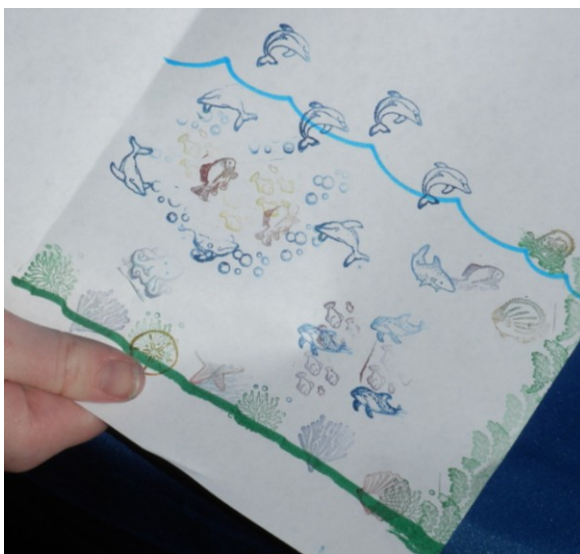
The CCNM, the other national monument associated with Point Loma, had a booth located in the center of the festival's activities. While CCNM Manager Rick Hanks handed out brochures, posters and calendars to a continuous stream of visitors and discussed the BLM, the National Landscape Conservation System and the CCNM with interested festival goers, the BLM's California Desert District outreach team representative, consisting of Barbara Croonquist and BLM volunteers Dee Dechert and Michael Croonquist, worked with hundreds of young visitors and even some older ones in making individualized CCNM-related buttons using a hand operated button press or making CCNM booklets colored with marking pens and a wide variety of sea life rubber stamps. Some of the younger children enjoyed the opportunity to touch and feel the life-like models of crabs and starfish found in and around California's tidepools.



Situated in the center of the event, the CCNM booth was busy throughout the two-day festival.



Both young and old enjoyed the activities at the CCNM booth, including decorating their own CCNM booklet using colored markers and rubber stamps.



While one young artist completes his cover, another displays her inside design.



With 5 design choices, CCNM button making was a popular activity since everyone had the option to color them any way they wanted.



Two youngsters working on their own multi-colored CCNM button designs.



BLM California Desert District's Barbara Croonquist cuts out completed CCNM button pattern while two young Girl Scouts wait patiently.

- Rick Hanks, California Coastal National Monument Manager. (February 2013)